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27 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of the House Foreign Affairs Asian and Pacific Affairs
Subcommittee on Afghanistan - 27 July 1982 (U)

1. On 27 July 1982 Charles Waterman, National Intelligence Officer for Near East and South Asia, and [] Office of Near East and South Asian Analysis, briefed Members of the House Foreign Affairs Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee on Afghanistan. Representatives from DIA and State also participated. The closed briefing was held in Room 2200 Rayburn House Office Building and lasted from 1400 hours until 1600 hours. No transcript was taken. []

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2. Members present included: []

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Stephen J. Solarz (D., NY),
Chairman

Joel Pritchard (R., WA)
Robert Lagomarsino (R., CA)

Representative Don Ritter (R., PA) attended as a guest of the Subcommittee.

3. Present from the full Committee and Subcommittee staffs were: []

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Bill Barnds, Staff Director
David Frank
Linda Silver
Jim Schollaert

Ed Friedman
Arch Roberts
Elisa Harris
Lin Sloan, Representative
Pritchard's staff

4. Charles Harris, INR/Department of State, attended as did [] and three other DIA representatives. []

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5. Mr. Waterman began by responding to several categories of questions asked by the Subcommittee in their letter to us. He said that the U.S.S.R. lacks the strategy to defeat the insurgents and gave some reasons for their problem. He gave the prospects of what might develop there over the next six months to a year. He mentioned the divisions in the Afghan political scene and touched on the problems in the Afghan Army. Next he discussed the insurgents and covered both their problems and their achievements. He also described the policy of Pakistan to the Afghan situation and the long term strategy of the U.S.S.R. with regard to the Afghanistan problem. []

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6. [] Defense Intelligence Officer for Middle East and South Asia, was the principal spokesman for DIA. He was assisted by three colleagues. He discussed the number of Soviet troops currently in Afghanistan and described the type of combat operations they were currently using. He added that the Soviets were trying to shift the combat burden to the Afghan Army but it was reduced in strength and ineffective. He offered the view that there is an increased trend toward cooperation among the insurgent groups. Next [] covered the Soviet casualty figures and pointed out that a

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significant percentage resulted from disease. He said that DIA did not believe that the Soviets were willing at present to commit the number of troops, a ratio of about 10 to 1, that would be able to defeat the insurgents. He concluded that the years ahead would be difficult for the U.S.S.R. and the Afghan insurgents since both seemed to be committed to a long struggle. []

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7. Mr. Harris was the final witness. He spoke about negotiations sponsored by the UN in Geneva indicating that they were nothing more than a public relations gesture. He described the Soviets' attitude in U.S. talks in Moscow on the situation as "unyielding." []

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8. During the question and answer period, the Members asked about the sources from which the insurgents obtain their arms and ammunition. They asked about the cost of the war to the U.S.S.R. and were told that it is about \$2 to \$3 million per day. Another question dealt with the reasons for the differences between the Parcham and Khalqi factions. Both CIA and DIA responded to questions about the insurgents' demands for and use of weapons including SA-7s, and the sources from which the weapons come. Representative Ritter talked about his contact with insurgent leaders, especially a new younger type of leader stressing his view that they needed more weapons. There were no follow-up items. []

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